The Bloomfield Record.

Devoted to the Interests of Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, and the various Suburban Districts of Essex County.

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Development of Character Through School Education.

From the School Journal by C. B. Gilbert, Superintendent of Education, Newark, N. J.

The necessity of training youth to virtue is everywhere recognized. The importance of giving such training in the common schools is generally conceded. Most now admit tacitly, if not avowedly, that no other agency can be relied upon for the proper training of all citizens.

The church and the family, at their best man's two most sacred institutions, no longer sufficiently meet the needs of the youth. Comparatively few people come under the direct influence of the church. Some regard it with hostility, many with indifference. Whatever be the cause, it cannot be denied that there are large classes of people who receive no direct benefit from the labors of religious organizations.

The family, too, fails as the universal means for training the youth to virtue. How can it be otherwise? How can it be expected that families whose heads are not virtuous should train their children wisely? In too many instances home is the worse place in which children can be. More and more the public school is recognized as the only institution which can be utilized for the proper training of all children. Yet we must admit that here too partial failure has thus far attended all efforts. But the public school is an institution under control, and one that reaches practically all citizens; hence it may be made the desired agency, and will be, as soon as its office is universally recognized.

We are still bound by precedent; the public school as an institution for universal training of the youth, is still young. At first, and largely even at present, it has been regarded as an institution for giving intelligence. The church and the home have been relied upon to supply the moral training; but intelligence is no longer regarded as a guarantee of integrity. The intelligent man, unless his character is sound, is simply more able to work evil than the unintelligent man. To give the child knowledge without giving him character is enlarging his possibilities for evil, as well as for good.

In general, there are three classes of opinion regarding the means by which virtue is to be inculcated through public schools. One class claim that the ordinary school discipline and the ordinary school instruction necessarily inculcate virtue. It is pointed out that through school experience the children are made accustomed to law, to order, and are taught what are called the virtues of punctuality, and silence, and obedience. This may be readily admitted, but punctuality, silence, and obedience are not, necessarily, virtues at all. At best they are expedients whose use may spring from evil motives, as well as from good. They do not indicate character, nor does their possession assure good conduct in other directions. I do not think it can be denied that the ordinary school discipline, even if it is of a poor sort, is of great value; but, nevertheless, it is inadequate for the cultivation of character.

Another class go to the other extreme, and claim that definite moral instruction should constitute part of the daily school curriculum, that children should be given regular lessons in morals, as in geography and arithmetic, in order that they may be made intelligent upon ethical questions as they are upon other questions. This, undoubtedly, has value. Intelligence upon moral questions is an excellent thing, but it does not make character. We have been accustomed to rely too much upon definite technical instruction in morals. Preachment is not nearly so instrumental in training character as many think; indeed, I believe that the ordinary school discipline and curriculum are worth more in training character than specific moral instruction.

While such instruction, wisely given, has great value, it is hazardous to require the average teacher to give frequent lessons of an ethical sort, and at any rate, such instruction is only of partial value. At its best, it can only affect the externals of conduct—what people call morals.

A very wide distinction should be made between morals and character. Morals are superficial; character is fundamental. Many bad people have excellent morals. The genesis and evolution of morals are interesting. As everybody knows, morals—mores—are simply manners, conduct—are necessarily superficial, and change from time to time, and from place to place.

Good people in different ages and in different localities have had totally different standards of morals. The excellence of morals, as commonly viewed, depends upon their conformity to accepted standards. These standards are, in part, the product of the experience of the ages by which men have learned what course of conduct most tends to peace and general comfort. But, in part, morals depend upon existing conventionalities, ephemeral, often absurd. Our fathers did many things which we should regard as immoral. We do many things which they would have regarded as immoral, without in either case violating the prevailing standard. We never regard the standard of morals as fixed, if we are thoughtful, and the good are quite as apt to be violators of old standards and introducers of new, as the bad.

It is, doubtless, well that people conform to prevailing moral standards if they have no better ones, but it is not enough; character is needed. Character is fundamental, self-directing, self-acting, controlled from within. Morals are external, obeying extraneous laws, changeable, expedient, conventional. Morals include but a part of life; character, the whole. It is all inclusive, all extensive. The perfection of morals is complete conformity to external standards, avoidance of criticism and friction. The perfection of character is inability to do what is wrong, which in God or man is not a limitation, but an evidence of power. Wrong is a weakening and disintergrating force, like disease. The strong character moves in its midst like the "Children in the Furnace." Such power comes not from formal instruction in morals, nor from conformity to any external standards, and yet such power is needed by the citizens of a free state. Such only is virtue.

Virtue consists in a completeness and perfection of being, whose aims, ambitions, purposes, and ideals all tend to one end. It includes knowledge, not knowledge of laws, proverbs, or formulas, but a comprehension of causes and relations. It embraces all of life, every thought, every act, so that resistance to evil is no more an effort than the oak's resistance of the zephyr. To such a character good deeds become nature, not supernatural, not artificial. The new birth of the Scripture is its type. All its streams of life flow in one direction. No act is unmoral. It may appear so, superficially, but every act derives a moral quality from the aim and spirit of the life.

Such character can be produced by no system of formal instruction; it must grow out of experience; but this experience must not be artificial.

With this point of view, I claim that character can be produced in school; not by the ordinary formal instruction and discipline, nor by technical moral instruction; but by introducing the child to a real, complete life, in which every activity tends to produce in him moral force, for every influence of environment, every occupation of mind; every activity of the body or soul enters into and becomes a part of the child's moral fiber. It cannot be otherwise. Our characters are the products of the whole of our living, and not a part of it.

Limbless Cotton.

An interesting sight at Opelika, Ala., is a patch of "limbless" cotton. The plants are from five to seven feet high and have no limbs or branches at all. The bolls form on little twigs two and three inches long, and when in bloom the stalk presents the appearance of a white column. A crop of about four bales to the acre is what is expected under fair conditions. This Alabama patch is the property of the Rev I. N. Fitzpatrick, a presiding elder of the negro Methodist church, and such is his care of his unique crop and his confidence in his neighbors that he watches it at night with a dog and gun.—Exchange.

Kilts.

Between 150,000 and 200,000 kilts are made every year. The kilted regiments of regulars, militia and volunteers number some 17 battalions. As the military kilt is only provided biennially this represents a supply of 7,000 a year.

Among the many devices to assist the blind one of the best is a typewriter in which the keys have raised letters and which punctuates the paper with either letters or the dots contained in one of the blind alphabets.

In North Dakota the killing of quail and English and Chinese pheasants is prohibited until 1906, and beaver and otter cannot be trapped and killed until 1903.

FACTS IN A FEW LINES.

Great Britain is strengthening Gibraltar by constructing a huge protected harbor and dockyard.

An Emporia (Kan.) lawyer charged $25 for collecting a $19 bill, but threw off $6 and called the thing square.

Some folks in Hiawatha, Kan., hang a piece of raw beef liver over the bed at night for the mosquitoes to feed on.

Since dairy instruction has been introduced into Ireland Irish butter is beginning to recover the position it has lost.

The United States flag today floats over 4,700,000 tons of shipping, as compared with 4,220,000 tons in 1890 and 4,068,000 tons in 1880.

The Germans seem to be losing respect for their emperor. Last year there were 83 per cent more imprisonments for lese majesty than 11 years ago.

Judge Reid of the Atlanta city court recently found it necessary to issue an order prohibiting attorneys from eating peanuts while the court is in session.

A 76-year-old lover at Coventry, England, finding as the wedding day drew near that he had not money enough to pay the expenses, drowned himself in a pond.

Smoking is to be tolerated in the main restaurant of conservative old Delmonico's in New York, a canvass among the ladies showing little opposition to the change.

Gold was first discovered in Colorado in 1858, and since then the state has produced $530,000,000 in gold and silver. Out of the 56 counties of the state 26 are gold producers.

To an ordinary rubber hose the superintendent of the Congressional library has attached the compressor of the pneumatic tube system and airily dusts his million books by "turning on the hose."

Amateur theatricals, short sleeved dresses and swimming baths are forbidden to the women of Dulmen, in Westphalia, by authority of their parish priest, because they are dangerous to morals.

The Japanese government now issues every day three weather charts, which include observations in China and the Lin Kiu islands, enabling captains to ascertain the movements of storms several days in advance.

An expert in the matters of inks and papers says that the books of the present period are printed with such poor ink on such perishable paper that future generations will not have an opportunity of reading them.

The court of appeals of New York has held that it was no ground for a new trial because the jury in a murder case attended church on Sunday in the custody of the sheriff and heard a sermon on the prevalence of crime.

A noted woman phrenologist, after an examination of female heads in various cities, says that "the Boston girl is apt to think most men are fools and nearly drives them frantic with her knowledge born of schools."

A correspondent of a New York paper favors Indian corn as the national emblem. "Distinctively American, large, generous, life giving, beneficent, glorious in form and color, with its crested flower pointing upward—truly a torch of liberty held aloft."

It is reported that a gentleman stopping at one of the hotels in Texarcana found a railroad spike in his hash the other morning, and the explanation of the waiter was that he "spected dat de steer had done collided wid de keers some time during his natural lifetime."

The London publisher Walter Scott recently asked the subscribers to his Scott Library to ballot on the question of what classic they would have for the one hundred and first volume of that series. Goethe was victor in the competition, and a selection from his critical papers was accordingly chosen.

A Boston citizen who had been in Europe all summer and had not seen a single piece of pie went into the most famous pie joint in Boston the day after his return. For his luncheon he took a cup of coffee, a piece of apple pie, a piece of custard pie, a piece of lemon pie and a piece of blueberry pie. He didn't take any of the grape pie because it was out.

Rev. Washburne West, who died lately in London, had the distinction of being able, through a judicious distribution of his property, to cast 23 votes at each parliamentary election. He was kept busy in rushing from one polling place to another on election day, as he was interested in politics. At the 1892 election he managed to vote the Conservative ticket 17 times.

A corduroy road made of small cedar trees, which were in a perfect state of preservation, was unearthed 38 feet below the surface of the earth, seven miles east of Ashtabula, O. Professor Carl Wright, teacher of geology in Oberlin college, who has visited the spot and examined the wood, gave it as his opinion that the wood has been where it was found since the glacial epoch.

A North Bath milkman has perhaps the unique pasture of Maine. It is an island, and when the tide is high the cows have to swim for it. The Bath Enterprise says the cows have become so accustomed to this that they will strike out without a moment's hesitation and remarks, "It makes a spectacle worth looking at when the 15 cows all plunge into the water and swim for their feeding ground."

The number of medical missionaries in missionary fields is 460, an increase of 132 in five years. Of these 168 are in China, 165 in India, 44 in Africa, 34 in Syria and Turkey and a smaller number in each of nearly a score of other countries. More than 340 are males and about one-third of that number females. The United States has 246 in the field, Great Britain 174, Canada 21. The American Presbyterians lead with a total of 71; the American Methodists follow with 55.

No-To-Bac for Fifty Cents.

Guaranteed tobacco habit cure, makes weak men strong, blood pure. 50c, $1. all druggists.

The Great Dane Dog.

The Great Dane, the exhibition dog of today and growing every day in favor as a beautiful and biddable dog, is the modern representative of the boarhound. On the continent, where its Danish origin is repudiated, it is called the German mastiff, and under this head all its varieties are classed at shows, while in this country we call it the Great Dane and catalogue under that name all the varieties of German mastiff, so that, taking the one with the other, the dog comes by its rights.

It is a beautiful creature, this Great Dane, and gives the impression at once of both power and activity and its temper—look at its small, keen eyes—is exactly what one might expect from a dog of war and of the chase veneered with the elegancies of civilization, for it is equable and (de haut en bas) good tempered, but woe to the object that irritates it. The conciliatory stranger who goes to pat one as if it were a lap dog finds a great blunt nozzle thrust forcibly and roughly into his hand or perhaps into his ribs, as who should say: "All right, old fellow, I'm not going to hurt you. You needn't pat me and call me good dog." He never awaits your permission to make your acquaintance, but introduces himself without formality if he wishes to know you. Going through a narrow passage, a Great Dane will take up more than half the room. He does not drop behind like the elegant mannered St. Bernard with a polite "man before dogs" sort of air, but hustles you robustly for equal space. Not that he is a dangerous dog. He is simply a boarhound, a creature of immense strength and infinite courage and courteous only out of condescension.—Good Words.

Telephones In Bed.

One of the most ingenious applications of the telephone is the portable form, which is known as the portable hospital telephone. Its particular use is to enable people in a sickroom in which an infectious disease is being nursed to communicative with the people in the rest of the house.

In hospitals this simple adaptation of the telephone to the requirements of the situation will be found invaluable, but an even greater field for its utility will be the private house.

The irksomeness of having some of the infectious diseases in a mild form is multiplied tenfold by the enforced seclusion of the patient, who is suddenly cut off from intercourse with the rest of the family. Now, by the mere addition of this little instrument to the furniture of the apartment, it is possible for a sick person to keep up a conversation with any member of the rest of the family, and in this way the tedium which is inseparable from the compulsory isolation may be relieved.

Furthermore, the nurse will by its means be saved a good many journeys, even in noninfectious cases, for she can ask for things to be brought to her at odd times which in the ordinary course she would have to go for, or at least ring a bell and have some one come to the door to ask what she required.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Human Printing Press.

General Joseph S. Smith of Maine tells how he published a paper without a press in Bath, Me., many years ago: "When I'd get my paper all set up and ready for the press, I'd lay the type on a washstand, get it all leveled down well in the chase, or the frame in which 'twas locked up, and then I'd call in the hired girl. She weighed about 210 when she sat down. That's what I wanted—sitting down weight. So, after the hired girl came in I inked the type, laid over it the sheet of paper and on top of that the blanket, and then I politely invited the hired girl to sit down on the washstand. Two hundred and ten pounds, remember! The result was just as good an impression as you could get on any $100 hand press made in the United States. My edition in those days was about 200 copies, and the hired girl was good for the job at one sitting—no, at 200 sittings. And she took an interest in it, too, and was just as ready for business every publication day as a $30,000 Hoe perfecting press would be."

Inconvenient.

James Payn recalls that when young and romantic he agreed with a friend to ascend Helvellyn from Thirlmere to see the sun rise. The guide called them, as it seemed to Mr. Payn, in the middle of the night, and he quite agreed with his friend when the latter persuasively asked the guide, who was expatiating on the beauties of the dawn, "Don't you think that the sunset would be almost as beautiful?" This recalls the undergraduate who when rebuked by the dean of the college for not coming to morning chapel replied: "But 7 o'clock is such an inconvenient hour, sir. If it were 4 or even 5, one could sit up for it."

The Limit.

"You are a nice little boy," said the kindly old gentleman at the hotel.

"Thank you," said Tommie.

"Have you any little brothers?"

"Yes," said Tommie, "I've got brothers to burn, but I'm rather short on papas. We've only got one."—Harper's Bazar.

American Forests Disappearing.

A statistician computes that in 50 years time there will not be a single tree in this country. Each year it takes 500,000 acres of timber to supply sleepers for the railways.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury,

As mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by Druggists, price 75c. per bottle.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

SAMPLE CORPSE.

Scheme of an Ohio Undertaker For Advertising Embalming.

An Ohio undertaker named Pearce doesn't allow sentiment to interfere with business. He can't see why the shoemaker adjoining his establishment should advertise his skill by displaying his samples, or the tailor across the street hang his latest sartorial confection in his front window, while the embalmer's good work has to find a lodgment beneath six feet of earth almost as soon as it has been accomplished.

Mark Twain, when he was shown the mummy of a Pharaoh who lived in the time of Moses, shrugged his shoulders with contemptuous indifference and remarked to the curator of the museum:

"Haven't you got a corpse that is a little fresher?"

All Mark has to do is to visit the funeral direction establishment of Mr Pearce at Ardmore. There he will probably find something more to his fastidious fancy in the shape of a sample of embalming, kept on view by Mr. Pearce for inspection by his customers. The "subject" has now done service for a period of three years, and the proprietor confidently expects that it will last as long as he remains in business.

The body in question has been in the very warmest workroom of his establishment all this while, and the leather-like flesh of the corpse is totally free from odor or putrefaction. Some say the hair on a body will grow after death. This probably originated in the mind of a dramatist or novelist, who wanted to sensationalize his readers to suit his books, for there lies Mr. Pearce's dead man, with his very last hair cut the same as it was two or three years ago. Then some say that the hair will fall out, but you couldn't pull the hair out of that body with tweezers. Each hair seems to be particularly riveted into the hardening leather and bone. Even the fuzzy, lighter hairs of all other parts of the body remain the same as they were at death.

Formaldehyde, a product of wood alcohol, and a comparatively recent product, is the fluid with which the body was embalmed, and Mr. Pearce says that there is now a fluid, with other elements added, that is far better than the 140 ounces, or a little over one gallon—$3 worth—of the formaldehyde used for the dessication of the body in question.—New York Herald.

A New Use For Organ Grinders.

A well dressed woman lately entered a Paris jeweler's shop and asked to see some valuable gold pins. While she was examining them a man began playing a barrel organ before the door. The music seemed to annoy the lady, and, stepping to the door, she threw a piece of money to the man and told him to go away, which he did at once.

On returning to the counter she said that none of the pins suited her, but that as some compensation for the trouble she had given she would buy a brooch. She accordingly chose one, paid 10 francs for it and was leaving the shop when the jeweler missed a diamond pin of great value from among those she had been examining. He accordingly stopped his customer, who seemed highly indignant and insisted on the proprietor's wife searching her, which was done, but no pin was found.

The jeweler then set his sister to watch the woman, who was seen to enter another jeweler's shop, and was pretending to make a purchase when the organ grinder made his appearance. As soon as he began playing she again threw some money and ordered him to move on, but the person who was watching her perceived that with the money she had given the man a piece of jewelry. This was at once made known to the police, who arrested both, and on searching the man they found several articles of stolen property.—Paris Letter.

What Squirrels Eat.

Squirrels do not entirely subsist on nuts, as most people suppose. They are largely fruit eaters, and occasionally work big havoc in the orchards at the fall of the year. They are not above stealing partridge eggs, and on this account are not beloved by the sportsman. Even poultry, when they stray, as they often will, and lay eggs beyond the confines of the poultry yard, suffer from attacks of squirrels when the mother bird is away. In pine tree districts these little climbers are fond of splitting the pine cones and eating the seeds thereof.

But above all things squirrels are fond of fungus. They will not have anything to say to the common or garden mushroom, but confidently devour the most yellow and poisonous looking of toadstools that grow in damp woods and fields. They never store these, for they know well that fungi will not keep. They devour them greedily as they come to light and revisit the spot as soon as fresh spawn renews the fungus. There are, however, many kinds of toadstools that squirrels know to be poisonous, and these they will not touch.—Detroit Free Press.

Interesting Information.

"The reason they make so much fuss over my birthday," explained Kitty to the young man in the parlor who was waiting for somebody else, "is that I've only had six. Sister's had 22, and she's so used to 'em she don't even mention 'em. How many birthdays have you had, Mr Spoonamore?"—Chicago Tribune.

The Canadian department of agriculture estimates the population of the Dominion to be 5,125,438, a gain of rather less than 300,000 since the census of 1891. In 1890 there were two states of the Union that exceeded Canada in population—New York, with 5,997,853 inhabitants, and Pennsylvania, with 5,258,014.

Frogs and toads have remarkably acute hearing. The slightest noise in the vicinity of a pond will at once attract the attention of the frogs and put them on their guard.

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And priced economically enough to suit the most exacting. Of course you don't grasp the rich variety displayed until you see it.

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All these come from eye-strain and are cured by properly-adjusted eye-glasses, fitted by an expert optician. Our eye specialist, L. B. Hilborn (R. O.) has for years made a study of the imperfections of eyesight and their correction.

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